



NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1940

NEWHAVEN,
23rd July, 1941

NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR
ENDED DECEMBER, 31st 1940

To the Members of the Newhaven Urban District Council,
Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1940.

During the year 1940 the general health of the District was good and there was freedom from any serious infectious disease; ~~excluding~~ Tuberculosis of which 4 cases were notified, There were 96 cases of Infectious Disease during the year of which 78 were measles.

There were no deaths from Zymotic disease.

The crude death rate was 14.8 as compared with 12.6 in 1939. The comparability factor of .92 gives an adjusted death rate of 13.6. It might, I think, be noted that 16 of these deaths were due to acts of violence and if these are omitted the death rate from ordinary causes would be 11.5.

The senile mortality was 44 as compared with 58 in 1939. The chief causes of death were as follows:- Heart disease 32, Violent causes 16, Cerebral Haemorrhage 8, Pneumonia 6, Bronchitis 6, and Cancer 7.

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .29 as compared with .56 in 1939.

The birth rate was 15.2 as compared with 15.3 in 1939. There was 1 illegitimate birth; there were 6 deaths of infants under one year of age giving an Infantile Mortality of .57, as compared with 18.3 in 1939.

Sixty-four cases of Infectious Disease was treated at the Isolation Hospital, all of which made a good recovery.

Social Conditions of the District

The Chief Industries in the district are as follows:-

Southern Railway Company.
Dock and Harbour Works.
Building Trade.
Valentine Pen Factory.

A good many workers are also employed at the Alpha Cement Works, situate a short distance outside the District.

My thanks are due to the members of the Council for their unfailing courtesy, and to the Officials for the ready aid extended to me in the performance of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

Rodie Parkhurst.

Newhaven
23rd July, 1941.

General Statistics

- Area1766 acres.
Population - Census 1931.....7383
Population - estimated.....6898
Number of inhabited houses.....1978
Number of families or separate occupiers...2053
Rateable Value.....£46,353:
Sum produced by a penny rate.....£184.11.9

2. Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year

Births - Legitimate M = 51 F. = 53.)
 Illegitimate. M = 0 F = 1.) Total 105

Still Births M = 2 F = 0 All legitimate.
 Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 births = 57.
 Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth = nil.
 Deaths from Zymotic disease = Nil.

3. Notifiable Disease during the year 1940.

During the year 1940, there were 96 cases of notifiable disease excluding Tuberculosis. They were as follows:- Measles 78; Diphtheria 5, Scarlet Fever 5, Pneumonia 3, Puerperal Pyrexia 2, Whooping Cough 2 and Erysipelas 1.

Table of Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during the year 1940, with age periods.

| Ages. | Diphtheria | Scarlet Fever | Pneumonia | Puerperal Pyrexia | Erysipelas | Measles. | Whooping Cough |
|-----------|------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|----------|----------------|
| 0-1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 1-5 | | | | | | 16 | 2 |
| 5-15 | 3 | 2 | | | 1 | 35 | |
| 15-25 | 2 | 3 | | | | 18 | |
| 25-35 | | | | 2 | | 6 | |
| 35-45 | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 45-55 | | | 1 | | | | |
| 55-65 | | | | | | | |
| 65 & over | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 78 | 2 |

Table of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year 1940 and deaths therefrom

| Age Periods. | New cases | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|---------------|---|-----------|----|---------------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M. | F. | M | F |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 25 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | |
| 35 | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | | |
| 65 & over | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | |

4.

Causes of Sickness

There were no particular causes of sickness during the year 1940, except for an outbreak of measles which, however, was not responsible for any deaths. The total number of infectious diseases notified was 96 as compared with 20 in 1939. Of these 78 were measles and 2 whooping cough, which were not notifiable before. There were 5 cases of scarlet fever and 5 of diphtheria. The crude death rate was 14.8, as compared with 12.6 in 1939, and the adjusted death rate was 13.6 as compared with 11.5 in 1939. The Senile Mortality was 44 as compared with 58 in 1939. The Infantile Mortality was 57 as compared with 18.3 in 1939.

The Birth rate was 15.2 as compared with 15.3 in 1939

The chief causes of death were as follows:- Heart disease 32, violent causes 16, Cerebral haemorrhage 8, Pneumonia 6, Bronchitis 6 and Cancer 7

5.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospital and other Institutions available for the district

The Newhaven Urban & District Nursing Association supply two Queens Nurses and one Health Visitor. One Queen's Nurse carries out the general nursing of the Urban District and part of the Rural District, and is also Midwife for such part of the Rural District. The other Queens Nurse is Midwife for the Town and gives relief duty to the other Nurses when needed. The Health Visitor carried out the health visiting in the Urban District and parts of the Rural District. The Nursing is provided by the Local Authority, assisted by a grant from the County Council. There is also a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre; weekly meetings are held where mothers can attend with their infants for instruction in their upbringing. This centre is carried on by the Health Visitor, assisted by the Town Midwife.

Clinics The Health Visitor attends the School Clinic and also the Dental and Eye Clinic held at the Schools, under the arrangements made by the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities A Motor Ambulance is provided by the Council for the conveyance of Infectious Diseases to the Isolation Hospital, and an up-to-date Motor Ambulance is provided by the Newhaven Urban & District Nursing Association for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases. This ambulance is available for use in the Urban District and the surrounding Districts.

Hospitals There is no hospital in the district for the treatment of Tuberculosis. The Isolation Hospital is provided for the reception of cases of infectious disease occurring in ~~the~~ town and Port; this Hospital receives a grant from the County Council under the condition that cases should be received from certain outlying districts should their own hospitals be full.

The Smallpox Hospital is the East Sussex Western Hospital, situate at Chailey, to which the Newhaven Urban District Council contributes a subsidy.

There is no Maternity or Children's Hospital in the District, nor any institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children.

Isolation Hospital.
Joint Hospital Board.

This Hospital is in a satisfactory condition; a new cubical block and fresh drainage would, however, be a great improvement. During the year 1940, 64 cases were under treatment, all of which, it is satisfactory to report, made a good recovery. I append a table of the cases treated:

| District etc. | Measles. | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria or suspected Diphtheria. |
|---------------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Military | 13 | 4 | |
| Naval | 2 | | |
| Lewes | | 28 | 1 |
| Newhaven | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| Seaford | | 3 | 3 |

6. Laboratory Work.

No bacteriological or pathological examinations are undertaken locally, but arrangements are in force with Dr. Shera, East Sussex County Mental Hospital, Hellingly, Sussex, for the examination of all specimens, the charge for which is borne by the Newhaven Urban District Council. All Medical Practitioners in the District are supplied with Diphtheria Antitoxin free of cost.

7. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

List of Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Parts i, ii, iii.
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 -
Parts iv, vi, ix and x.
Sections 15-22 inclusive and 28, and 31, 32 and 33.
of Part 2, and Section 81 of Part 7.
Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Water Supply.

The District has two sources of Water Supply
1. From the Newhaven & Seaford Water Co. which obtains water from a well sunk into the chalk at Poverty Bottom.
2. From the Southern Railway Company's Well at Denton.
Both these water supplies are of good quality and sufficient in quantity. They have been analysed on several occasions and found satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation.

All premises in the District are provided with water closets connected with the sewer with the following exceptions:
Premises with Cesspools:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| West Pier | 3 |
| Cemetery | 1 |
| Court Farm Cottages | 3 |
| Harbour Heights Estate | 46 |
| Added Area | 185 |

Premises with Earth Closets.

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Meeching Court Farm | 6 |
| New Road | 17 |
| West Pier | 24 |
| Golf House | 1 |
| Fort Glacis | 3 |
| Bungalow, Church Hill | 1 |
| East Side Beach huts | 42 |
| Denton Village | 32 |

Scavenging.

The method of disposal of house refuse now in force is the Bradford tipping system as suggested by the Ministry of Health, whereby refuse is buried daily under the soil. This system works very satisfactorily.

8. Sanitary Inspection of the District and the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1940.

The following is the number of houses visited by the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1940:

| | |
|---|-------|
| In connection with Infectious Disease | 25 |
| Various | 15 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 40 |

Abstract from the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The Sanitary Inspector carries out a regular inspection of the District and I subjoin extract from his Report. The Sanitary Inspector reports that during the year 1940, he has made 589 visits in connection with his work. In respect of these visits, 22 informal and 2 formal notices were served. Ninety-seven complaints were received during the year, all of which were dealt with and the conditions remedied. I append a table of the number and nature of the inspections carried out during the year 1940:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Dwelling House Inspections | 115 |
| Visits in connection with nuisances | 153 |
| Common Lodging House Inspections | 3 |
| Slaughter House Visits | 4 |
| Visits in connection with Offensive Trade | 3 |
| Bakehouse inspections | 10 |
| Cowshed inspections | 8 |
| Factory and Workshop Inspections | 5 |
| Rat Investigations | 17 |
| Visits in connection with vermin and disinfestation | 32 |
| Visits in connection with Infectious Disease and disinfection | 30 |
| Food Premises Inspections | 150 |
| Public Conveniences inspections | 2 |
| Water supply inspections | 5 |
| Miscellaneous visits | 52 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 589 |

Summary of Work Executed After Service of Notice.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Water Closets repaired | 4 |
| Cesspools cleaned | 1 |
| Drains cleared or repaired | 14 |
| Accumulation of Refuse Removed | - |
| Cooking Ranges repaired | 2 |
| Rooms of Dwelling Houses cleansed | - |
| Dustbins provided | 3 |
| Yards paved | - |
| Floors repaired | - |
| Windows repaired | 2 |
| Dampness remedied | 1 |
| Food Stores provided | - |
| Staircases repaired | - |
| Coppers repaired | - |
| Sinks and Laboratory basins provided or repaired | 2 |
| Roofs repaired | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 29 |

Shops and Offices.

All Shops and offices are regularly inspected and their conditions found to be satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

- (1) Number of Houses infested - Council Houses 2
Other houses 5
All these houses were disinfested.
- (2) Method employed - Cimex cubes and Pyagra.
- (3) All furniture and effects of infested premises were disinfested
- (4) All tenants supervised and instructed by Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The Sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory and the water supply is good and adequate. There is a need for the provision of a new school building in the district, as since the admission of scholars from Peacehaven, it has been necessary in the Boys' School to hold two classes in one room which is not a satisfactory condition of affairs.

All cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever are removed to the Isolation Hospital and contacts excluded for the prescribed periods. Notices of non-notifiable diseases are sent to the Medical Officer of Health by the Head Teachers so that any steps which may be considered advisable may be taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

1. Lodging Houses. There is only one Lodging House in the District. This is licensed for the reception of 43 people. A regular inspection of the premises is carried out.
2. Dairies and Cowsheds. There are 3 dairy farms in the district and 20 registered Retailers and 2 Wholesale Traders for the sale of milk.

Regular inspections of the premises are carried out, and their general condition has been found satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspector has made 15 visits to the cowsheds and given five informal notices.

3. Slaughtering of animals. Under Government Central Slaughtering this is carried out at Brighton for this district.

Food.

A. Milk Supply. The premises from which and the conditions under which milk is retailed in the District receive special attention from the Authority. Eight samples for bacterial examination were taken, four of which were unsatisfactory.

B. Other Foods. All premises where food is prepared for sale are regularly inspected and their condition has been found satisfactory. There are six bakehouses in the district, none of which is underground.

The Public Health Officers of the Council consist of a Medical Officer of Health, part time, and a Sanitary Inspector, full time. The staff of the Isolation Hospital comprises a Matron, two Assistant Nurses, a Probationer Nurse, a Cook, a Maid

and Caretaker. On the 1st October, 1939, the Hospital was taken over by the Lewes, Newhaven & Seaford Joint Hospital Board. The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Superintendent.

Sanitary Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - Rodie Parkhurst, M.B., C.M.Edin.

Sanitary Inspector Reginald Staples, Cert.R.S.I. and
SI.E.J.B. and Qualified Inspector of
Meat and Other Foods.

Disinfection.

Premises where cases of infectious disease have occurred are disinfected with formalin. In cases of Cancer and Tuberculosis disinfection is generally carried out on the death or removal of the patient. Infected beddings and clothing are treated in the steam disinfectant at the Isolation Hospital.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under these Regulations during the year 1940.

I append a table of general Statistics for the past ten years.

| Year | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 | 1935 | 1934 | 1933 | 1932 | 1931 |
|--|------|------|-------|------|-------|------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Population estimated to middle of year | 5389 | 7112 | 7062 | 6989 | 7060 | 6989 | 6936 | 6486 | 6494 | 6397 |
| Birth rate per 1,000 of the population | 15.2 | 15.3 | 15 | 15.1 | 12.6 | 13.7 | 14.7 | 14.15 | 13.3 | 15.15 |
| Death rate of infant under 1 yr. per 1000 Births | 57 | 18.3 | Nil | 66 | 22.5 | 10.4 | 20 | 43.5 | 35 | 57.5 |
| Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the population | 14.8 | 12.6 | 11.89 | 10.3 | 11.7 | 12.4 | 11.5 | 15 | 10.6 | 16.5 |
| Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of the population | 13.6 | 11.5 | 10.9 | 9.47 | 10.76 | | | | | |
| Zymotic Death rate per 1,000 | - | - | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.25 | 0.14 | - | - | 0.15 | - |
| Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 | .29 | .56 | .56 | .4 | .4 | .7 | .43 | .77 | .44 | 1.5 |
| Death Rate from other Respiratory Diseases per 1000 | 1.7 | 1 | .4 | .7 | .8 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.6 | .8 | 1.5 |
| Senile Mortality Deaths at 65 & over as percentage of total deaths | 44 | 58 | 60.7 | 52.8 | 61.7 | 48.0 | 62.8 | 60.0 | 50.0 | |

RODIE PARKHURST;

23rd July, 1941.

Medical Officer of Health.